

NANTYGLO AND BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of District.	3,862 acres.
Registrar Generals estimate of population.	1939 11,610
	1938 11,590
	1931 13,190
Number of Inhabited Houses.	3,053
Number of Families.	3,326
Rateable Value	£31,792
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£102.12.5

Vital Statistics.

Number of Births.	191
Number of Legitimate Births.	Males 83. Females 104
Number of Illegitimate Births.	" 3. " 1.
Birth rate per 1,000 of population.	16.4.
General rate of Monmouth County.	15.9.
General rate of England and Wales.	15.0.
Number of Still births.	7.
Still Birth rate per 1,000 of population.	0.6.
Still Birth rate per 1,000 of Monmouth County.	0.85.
Still Birth rate per 1,000 of England and Wales.	0.59.
Number of Deaths	Males 97. Females 79 - 176.
Death rate per 1,000 of population.	15.1.
Death rate per 1,000 of Monmouth County.	12.7.
Death rate per 1,000 of England and Wales.	12.1.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(a) Puerperal sepsis 0; Other Puerperal causes 0.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year.

	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930
No. of deaths under 1 year	16	17	9	12	11	24	18	20	16	11
No. of Births.	191	167	164	182	196	202	202	233	249	194
Infantile Mortality Rate.	83.7	101.8	55.5	63.9	56.1	118.8	89.1	85.8	64.2	56.6

Particulars of Deaths of Children under 1 year.

Under 1 week.	2 weeks.	3 weeks.	4 weeks.	3 mths.	3-6mths.	6-9mths.	9-12mths.	TOTAL
6	2	2		1	4	1		16

Total Number of Births.	191
Total Number of Deaths.	16.
Death rate per 1,000 Births.	83.7
Death rate per 1,000 Births Monmouth County.	61.2
Death rate per 1,000 Births England & Wales.	50.0

Social Conditions.

The district is situated at the Northern end of the County of Monmouth and is bounded on the West by the Ebbw Vale Urban District and the North by the Brynmawr Urban District, on the South by the Abertillery Urban District.

Coal mining is the only industry.

SECTION B.

i. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Public Health Staff engaged by the Council are myself as Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) and a whole time Sanitary Inspector who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. One half of the Salaries are paid by the County Council.

ii. a. Laboratory Facilities.

Facilities are provided by the County Authority for the examination of Pathological + Bacteriological specimens of water, milk + food stuffs.

b. Ambulance Facilities.

The Public Health Authority has no Ambulance Facilities. The only ambulance of the district is the property of the Nantyglo & Blaina General Hospital Board.

c. Nursing in the Home.

There are three midwives practising in the area appointed by the Monmouthshire County Council under the Midwives Act, 1936.

There is a District Nursing Association at Blaina affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. A nurse attached to the Institute is employed by the Association.

There is a similar District Nursing Association at Nantyglo affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association. The expenses of maintenance of the Nurses and necessary equipment is met by voluntary contributions.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals administered by the Local Authority. Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and all other infectious diseases are treated in the home with exception of Typhoid Fever, Small Pox and Cerebro Spinal Fever. These latter infectious diseases are treated by an arrangement with neighbouring Isolation Hospitals.

There are a certain number of beds available at the Public Assistance Institute, Ty Bryn, Tredegar.

Clinic - Treatment Centres.

There are two maternity and child welfare centres one at Nantyglo and one at Blaina. They as well as the school clinics, Dental and Eye clinics, are conducted by the County Medical Staff.

Orthopaedic cases are referred to the County Medical Officer who recommend them to the Orthopaedic Clinic which is held at Newport the last Friday of each month. The nearest treatment centre for Venereal Disease is at The Royal Gwent Hospital.

A Tuberculosis Clinic conducted by the Welsh National Memorial Association is held at 18 Abertillery Road, Blaina, the second Wednesday in each month.

Patients who are too ill to attend may be visited in the home. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council for the use of Medical Practitioners when needed.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The water is good and the supply is satisfactory. Samples of water were taken on ten occasions during the year from the following districts.

New Road, Coedcao, Coalbrookvale, Farn Road, High Street, Glanyrafon Terrace, South Griffin Terrace,

The reports stated that bacteriologically they were satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage. is on the water carriage system.

The subsidiary sewers are connected up with the Western Valloys Monmouthshire Main Trunk Sewer which discharges into the sea at low water west of the mouth of the Usk.

No new sewerage schemes were undertaken during the year.

As a result of regular inspections commenced in March several houses were discovered not to be properly connected to the sewers and in addition certain lengths of sewer were found to be in need of special attention. A large proportion of these defects have been remedied.

Closet accommodation.

There were no conversions from conservancy system during the year.

Of the 3,000 houses in district 450 are fitted with flush tanks the remainder are hand flushed.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

The gypsies have given a great deal of trouble during the year.

In June it became necessary to take legal proceedings to have them removed from the Blaenant area and for a time the district was clear.

During the last two months of the year they again returned.

Public Cleansing.

This is still far from being satisfactory. The collections are made on alternate days and with the co-operation of the householders this should be satisfactory.

It would be a great help if notice were taken of the day and time of collections and if the receptacles used were such that they could be handled by one man.

Cleanliness in the House.

There is some improvement in the general cleanliness of the homes.

iii. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Conditions and Water Supply of the Secondary and Elementary Schools are satisfactory.

No Rag Flock is sold or made in the area. The Marine Stores are inspected periodically.

No action has been found necessary during the year under the provisions of the Shop Act 1934 relating to Ventilation Temperature of Shops and Sanitary convenience.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths in the district.

The children travel to neighbouring town or make use of the local ponds which have been proved by bacteriological examination to be contaminated and to be quite unfit to be used as Swimming Pools.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

(1) a. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts).

493

b. Number of inspections made for the purpose.

493

(2) a. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.

493

b. Number of inspections made for the purpose.

493

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation.	51
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	None.
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	35
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
a. Proceedings under Sections 9,10,16 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	41
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.	25
(a) By owners.	25
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	None
b. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	25
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
(a) by owners.	20
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	None
c. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	8
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order.	None
(Rehousing accommodation not complete by end of year).	
d. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made.	5
e. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	None
(Undertaking given by owners not to reoccupy).	

Slum Clearance.

During the year the owners of 15 houses were invited and attended a meeting of the Council where matters relating to the making Demolition and Closing Orders would be considered.

An undertaking to repair two of the houses was accepted.

It was decided to serve Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act on 8 houses and Closing Orders under Section 12 on 5 cellar dwellings.

Overcrowding.

No application for new houses has been made to relieve the serious overcrowding that was shown to exist when the Survey was taken.

This overcrowding became more serious during the last months of the year due to the fact that a large number of people who were old residents of the district returned home from areas considered to be in the danger zone.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Thirty-five samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination by the County Pathologist, eight of which were samples of milk supplied to the school children.

Generally the reports were satisfactory.

Three local supplies and two from outside the District were not quite satisfactory. These people were informed that no effort should be spared in order to ensure an absolutely clean supply.

The owners and tenants of all the local farms have been informed that all necessary repairs and alterations must be carried out in order to remove any possible source of danger to their milk supply.

The quantity of milk supplied daily is as follows:-

1. Brought in by train, lorry or cart daily:

Pasteurised.	180 gallons.
Accredited.	10 gallons.
Raw milk.	110 gallons.

2. From Local Farms daily.

Raw milk.	30 gallons.
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Total from all sources 330 gallons daily.

Meat and other Foods.

Visits were paid regularly to the slaughter houses, butcher shops and other shops where foods are sold.

The number of animals killed for human consumption by the local butchers is:

Beasts	312.
Calves	250.
Sheep	2,400.
Pigs	706.
Total	<u>3,668.</u>

In addition several meat sellers in our district obtain their supplies from outside the district.

Meat and Food seized and destroyed during the year was as follows:

Beef	790 lbs.
Pig's head and Liver	14 lbs.
Cooked ham	126 lbs.
Condensed Milk	48 tins.

SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Enquiries are made as to any possible source of infection, efforts are made to prevent the spread, and disinfection of premises is undertaken when the patient has recovered.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis has again given us cause for much concern. Fourteen cases were notified of which six were fatal.

Special efforts have been made to trace the source of infection in each case without result.

Naso pharyngeal swabs have been taken of contacts but in no case has a carrier been found.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to your Clerk Mr. G. Roy Jenkins, your Financial Officer Mr. E. J. Helt and your Sanitary Officer Mr. W. T. Angell, for their courtesy and continued help during the year.

FLORENCE M. WALLEN GUNN,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE ACCORDING
TO DISTRICTS & WARDS.

DISEASE	DISTRICTS.			WARDS.			TOTAL.
	NANTYGLO.	BLAINA.	TOTAL.	NORTH.	CENTRAL.	SOUTH.	
CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS.	5	9	14	4	4	6	14
DIPHTHERIA.	16	5	21	16	4	1	21
PNEUMONIA.	13	5	18	12	4	2	18
ERYSIPELAS.	2	1	3	1	2	0	3
TUBERCULOSIS (PUL.	3	9	12	2	5	5	12
	0	2	2	0	1	1	2
NON PUL.							
SCARLET FEVER	2	29	31	2	13	16	31
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
MEASLES.	4	24	28	4	6	18	28
WHOOPING COUGH	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
PUERPERAL PYREXIA.	3	0	3	3	0	0	3
	48	86	134	44	40	50	134

ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS CASES
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP.

DISEASES.	CASES.							DEATHS.						
	Under 1 Year.	1-2 Years.	2-3 Years.	3-4 Years.	4-5 Years.	5-10 Years.	10-15 Years.	15-20 Years.	20-35 Years.	35-45 Years.	45-65 Years.	65 & over.	TOTAL	
CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS.	4				4	2	2	1	1				14	
DIPHTHERIA.				1	4	11	4	1					21	2
PNEUMONIA.		3	3	1	4	3	1		2	1			18	9
ERYSIPELAS.									2	1			3	
HUZZELAL PYREXIA.									2	1			3	3
SCARLET FEVER.		1	4	2	5	11	6	1	1				31	
OPHTHALMIA.		1											1	
NEONATORUM.														
MEASLES.		1	1	1	2	8	5						28	2
WHOOPING COUGH.		1											1	
TOTALS.	9	6	4	5	15	47	17	5	3	6	2	1	120	15
													120	18

Tuberculosis not included in this table.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	Under 1 Yr	1-2 Yrs.	2-3 "	3-4 "	4-5 "	5-10 "	10-15 "	15-20 "	20-35 "	35-45 "	45-65 "	65 & Over	Male.	Females	Total.
MEASLES				1	1								1	1	2
INFLUENZA												1	1	1	2
CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER	2					2							1	3	4
TUBERCULOSIS (Resp.System)								3	2			3	1	7	9
TUBERCULOSIS (Oth.forms)												1		1	1
CANCER									1			6	6	7	13
DIABETES							1					2	2	1	3
CEREBRAL HAEMORRHAGE										1	3	4	3	5	8
HEART DISEASE										5	18	51	43	31	74
OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASES										1	2	3	4	2	6
BRONCHITIS									1	1	1	3	3	3	6
PNEUMONIA	3		1	1	1					1		2	6	3	9
SEPTIC ULCER												1	1		1
DIARRHOEA (Under 2 years)	2													2	2
APPENDICITIS									1					1	1
CIRRHOSIS OF LIVER												1		1	1
OTHER DIGESTIVE DISEASES										1	1		1	1	2
NEPHRITIS								1		2	3	4	7	3	10
CONGENITAL DEBILITY (PREMATURE BIRTHS ETC.)	7													5	7
SENILITY												1		1	1
VIOLENT DEATHS						1	1							2	2
DIARRHOEA									1				1		1
OTHER DEFINED DISEASES	2						2	1	3	2		1	5	6	11
<u>TOTALS</u>		16	0	1	2	2	3	4	5	9	14	43	77	97	176

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year								
1 to 5 Years								
5 to 15 "	1							
15 to 25 "	2	1	1	1	3			
25 to 35 "	2	1				1		
35 to 45 "	2	1						
45 to 55 "					2	1		1
55 to 65 "	1				1			
65 and over.	1				1			
	9	3	1	1	7	2		1

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The number and Causes of Certified and Uncertified Deaths at ages from 1 to 65 years and over.

<u>CAUSES.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	1
Diphtheria	2
Tubercular Meningitis	1
Measles	1
Influenza	1
Cancer	14
Arterio Sclerosis	6
Heart	28
Nephritis	4
Intestinal Obstruction	1
Convulsions	1
Bronchitis	6
Gastro Enteritis	10
Pneumonia	4
Broncho Pneumonia	9
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	6
Senile Decay	3
Other Defined Causes	32
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TOTAL	130
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The number and Causes of Certified and Uncertified Deaths occurred under 1 year.

<u>CAUSES.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Measles	1
Convulsions	2
Pneumonia	1
Gastritis	6
Asthenia	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	1
Bronchial Pneumonia	2
Diarrhoea & Enteritis	1
Premature Birth	3
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	3
Other Causes	4
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TOTAL	25
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